

**Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – November 1, 2020**  
**All Saints Day**  
**Join us on YouTube!**

**About All Saints' Day:**

Saints' days began in the early church as a way to mark the anniversaries of the deaths of the early Christian martyrs—their birthdays as saints. By the middle of the church's first millennium, there were so many martyrs that it was hard to give them all their due. All Saints' Day was established as an opportunity to honor all the saints, remembered and forgotten, known and unknown. It has been celebrated on or around November 1 since the ninth century.

While we give thanks for the lives of particular luminaries of ages past, we also give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of believers in this and every age.

**Opening Music**

"For All the Saints"

Wade Meyers, pianist

**Greeting**

**Call to Worship** [*responsive*]

In all our weakness and strength,  
with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,  
**we come to be your people, O God.**  
Strong in faith and eager with questions,  
singing our praise and whispering our prayers,  
**we come to be your people, O God.**  
Filled with saintly determination  
yet mindful of our human limitations,  
**we come to be your people, O God.**  
Made strong in your endless love for us,  
we know ourselves to be yours and  
**we come to be your people, O God.**  
May we truly become your people today. Amen.

**Opening Prayer** [*together*]

Eternal God, hope of all who trust in you,  
in Christ you weep with those who mourn  
even as you cry out in triumph over the grave.  
Unbind us from sin, release us from captivity,  
and with Lazarus, raise us from death to life,  
so that we may join that great crowd of saints

who forever sing praise to your holy name;  
through Christ, the resurrection and the life. Amen.

## Call to Confession and Prayers of Confession

[Silence for Personal Prayer]

### Assurance of Pardon [*responsive*]

Hear the good news!  
Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,  
Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.  
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.  
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are new people,  
forgiven and set free. Thanks be to God!**

Rom. 8:34; 2 Cor. 5:17

## We Listen to God's Word

### Children's Message

Carolyn Hayes

### Scripture

#### Psalm 42 (from the Passion Translation)

<sup>1</sup> I long to drink of you, O God,  
drinking deeply from the streams of pleasure  
flowing from your presence.  
My longings overwhelm me for more of you!  
<sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts, pants, and longs for the living God.  
I want to come and see the face of God.

<sup>3</sup> *Day and night my tears keep falling  
and my heart keeps crying for your help  
while my enemies mock me over and over, saying,  
"Where is this God of yours? Why doesn't he help you?"*

<sup>4</sup> *So I speak over my heartbroken soul,  
"Take courage. Remember when you used to be  
right out front leading the procession of praise  
when the great crowd of worshipers  
gathered to go into the presence of the Lord?  
You shouted with joy as the sound of passionate celebration  
filled the air and the joyous multitude of lovers  
honored the festival of the Lord!"*

<sup>5</sup> So then, my soul, why would you be depressed?  
Why would you sink into despair?  
Just keep hoping and waiting on God, your Savior.  
For no matter what, I will still sing with praise,  
for living before his face is my saving grace!

<sup>6</sup> *Here I am depressed and downcast.  
Yet I will still remember you as I ponder the place  
where your glory streams down from the mighty mountaintops, lofty and majestic—  
the mountains of your awesome presence.*

<sup>7</sup> *My deep need calls out to the deep kindness of your love.  
Your waterfall of weeping sent waves of sorrow  
over my soul, carrying me away,  
cascading over me like a thundering cataract.*

<sup>8</sup> Yet all day long God's promises of love pour over me.  
Through the night I sing his songs,  
for my prayer to God has become my life.

<sup>9</sup> *I will say to God, "You are my mountain of strength;  
how could you forget me?  
Why must I suffer this vile oppression of my enemies—  
these heartless tormentors who are out to kill me?"*

<sup>10</sup> *Their wounding words pierce my heart  
over and over while they say,  
"Where is this God of yours?"*

<sup>11</sup> So I say to my soul,  
"Don't be discouraged. Don't be disturbed.  
For I know my God will break through for me."  
Then I'll have plenty of reasons to praise him all over again.  
Yes, living before his face is my saving grace!

### **Matthew 5:1–12**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is the witness to God's word.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Saints Among Us**

Elder Kris Obom Maldarelli

### **We Respond to God's Grace**

**Music for Reflection**

"Blessed Assurance" with  
J.S. Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"  
The Canterbury Ringers

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

**Invitation to Generosity**

**Commemoration of those who have died in faith**

Julius Lauderdale

Arna Simpson

Maxine Brown

Jennie Martindale

Betty Allsopp

Robert "Ted" Hocknell

Daniel Ofori-Asae

Jack Harris

Jean Lindsay

Thomas Gira

Harold "Bud" Curtis

Precious Asiedu-Mensah

Betty Pearce

Henry Mastroni

Krishna Banaudha

Francisca Ewalt

Lucile Rawcliffe

Ruth Curley

**Invitation to the Communion Table and Great Prayer of Thanksgiving** [*responsive*]

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right, and our greatest joy...

**Lord's Prayer** [*together*]

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our debts,**

**as we forgive our debtors;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ is present to us in this meal, and that presence comes through whatever elements we use. Please take the elements you have at home, and eat whatever kind of bread you have, and drink whatever cup you have prepared. The bread is the body of Christ, the bread of heaven, and the cup is the blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Take and eat. Take and drink.*

**Prayer after Communion**

**We Depart for Service**

**Announcements and Passing the Peace**

Greeting: "The peace of Christ be with you."

Response: "And also with you."

**Closing Blessing**

**Closing Music**

"Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil"

Wade Meyers, pianist

Participating in the service:  
Ms. Ashley Agard and Ms. Samantha Agard, Worship Leaders  
Ms. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families  
Mr. Wade Myers, Director of Music and Worship Arts  
Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence  
Rev. Mary Austin